



**State Route 24 ribbon-cutting**  
Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer  
Tuesday, April 15, 2014, 5:30 p.m.  
Freeway construction site

**Thank you, Director Halikowski ... and good evening, everyone.**

**I'm thrilled to be here today to celebrate Arizona's newest freeway segment and eventual economic driver.**

**This ribbon-cutting marks the first step in an exciting venture that will open up our state to the growing communities in the East Valley -- expanding commerce and facilitating travel throughout the region.**

**Clearly, this is so much bigger than just a freeway expansion project.**

**It's about increasing jobs through an improved**

**transportation system – one that allows for efficiently moving goods and services ... and connects more directly to our trading partners throughout the world.**

**I've said before that economic development is the foundation of a prosperous and livable community, and transportation infrastructure is central to that economic growth.**

**This new State Route 24 – or the Gateway Freeway -- is invaluable for both.**

**At one time, the east side of Gateway Airport was considered too remote to attract industrial and commercial development.**

**Today, this critical transportation project is a catalyst for amazing development opportunities in this burgeoning business and industrial zone all around the airport.**

**If we are to continue moving forward with our robust**

**Arizona Comeback, we must continue to invest wisely in projects like this that will open our communities to major business growth.**

**It's forward-thinking projects like this that helped Forbes Magazine recently rate Arizona as the Number One state for expected job growth.**

**Already, the Gateway Freeway is set to serve some of the more exciting and innovative new developments in Arizona, such as Apple, Eastmark, and Abel Engineering.**

**This growing Elliott corridor will bring thousands of well-paying jobs to our state --- many of them in technology, aerospace and other skilled labor industries.**

**Just as impressively, this project also opens the way for ASU Polytechnic campus, as well as the planned new Grand Canyon University, to be strategically located.**

**And while this is just the first leg of what will someday**

**be a major route through Central Arizona -- its immediate impact cannot be understated.**

**In addition, the collaboration between local and state governments to bring this project forward should be emphasized as well.**

**Mayor Smith and the Mesa City Council deserve great credit for their foresight and efforts in moving this project forward ahead of schedule.**

**And I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the innovation, expertise and cooperation of the Arizona Department of Transportation, the Maricopa Association of Governments and everyone with the City of Mesa for getting this important initial segment completed.**

**Today, the Gateway Freeway is the critical one mile beginning of a new road to prosperity – and a growing and thriving example of what continues to be Arizona's economic comeback.**

**Thank you.**